

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 040600Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4245

S E C R E T JIDDA 2420

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN SAUD ON LEBANON

1. LEBANON WAS INITIAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN CALL BY AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER ON PRINCE SAUD APRIL 3. SAUD SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE CEASE-FIRE AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN ROLE IN SEEKING A RESOLUTION. HE ALSO INDICATED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR POSSIBLE UNILATERAL INTRODUCTION OF SYRIAN MILITARY FORCES SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND LEAD THE WAY TO A SOLUTION. IN THAT CASE, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UP TO U.S. TO RESTRAIN THE ISRAELIS AND INSURE THAT THEY WOULD NOT MOVE IN FORCES THEMSELVES. SAUD THOUGHT THE ISRAELIS WERE, IN FACT, LOOKING FOR PRETEXT TO MOVE INTO LEBANON.

2. AMBASSADOR AND SOBER ASSURED SAUD THAT OUR INTEREST LIES IN AGREEMENT AMONG THE LEBANESE ON A BASIC POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN LEBANON; THAT WE THOUGHT THE POLITICAL COMPROMISE WORKED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE JANUARY CEASE-FIRE PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR SUCH A SOLUTION, AND THAT WE CONSIDERED THE SYRIAN ROLE TO HAVE BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL.

3. AMBASSADOR AND SOBER NOTED THAT WE HAD, INDEED, CAUTIONED THE ISRAELIS ON THE MATTER OF MILITARY INTER-

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VENTION. WE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT UNI-

LATERAL INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE FORCE COULD LEAD TO
DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES BECAUSE OF LIKELY RETALIATION.
WE SHARED SAUD'S HOPE THAT THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE WOULD
NOW LEAD TO AN EARLY POLICAL SOLUTION.

4. SAUD AND AMBASSADOR AGREED ON NEED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE
TOUCH ON LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA02420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840093-2080
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760499/aaaadhcy.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN SAUD ON LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, LE, SA, IS, SY, (SAUD BIN FAISAL, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006